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09/206,216 12/05/98 DATH J F-721

IM62/0301

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1764

DATE MAILED:

10
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/206,216

Applicant(s)
Dath et al.

Examiner
Tam Nguyen

Group Art Unit
1764



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec 27, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-10, 12-14, 16-20, 22, 24, and 27 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-10, 12-14, 16-20, 22, 24, and 27 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 7

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION***Double Patenting***

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1, 2, 7-10, 12-14, 22, 24, and 27 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 of copending Application No. 09/206,208. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both process claims disclose the catalytic cracking of an olefin to produce propylene by using a dealuminated catalyst. The present claimed process does not disclose that the catalyst is an **MFI** crystalline silicate catalyst. However, the crystalline catalyst of the present claimed process has the same characteristics as the MFI crystalline silicate catalyst of the process of claims 1-10. Therefore, the present claimed catalyst is the MFI crystalline silicate.

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Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-14, 16, 17, 20, 22, 24, and 27 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16 of copending Application No. 09/206,207. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both process claims disclose the catalytic cracking of an olefin to produce propylene by using a dealuminated catalyst. The present claimed process does not disclose that the catalyst is an MFI crystalline silicate catalyst or ZSM-5 and does not disclose that the feed contains at least one sulfur, nitrogen, and/or oxygen derivative impurity. However, the crystalline catalyst of the present claimed process has the same characteristics as the MFI which is ZSM-5 of the process of claims 1-16. Therefore, the present claimed catalyst is ZSM-5 and it would be expected that the results would be the same when using the feed of claims 1-16 for the present claimed process because both claimed processes use the same catalyst and operate under the same conditions.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-14, 22, 24, and 27 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16 of copending Application No. 09/206,218. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both process claims disclose the catalytic cracking of an olefin to produce propylene by using a dealuminated catalyst. The present claimed process does not disclose that the catalyst is an **MFI** crystalline silicate catalyst. However, the crystalline catalyst of the present claimed process has the same characteristics as the MFI crystalline silicate

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catalyst of the process of claims 1-16. Therefore, the present claimed catalyst is the MFI crystalline silicate.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Response to Amendment

The rejection of claims 1-26 under 35 USC § 103 over EP 0109060 in view of Cosyns et al. (5,306,852) and Gajda et al. (5,522,984) is withdrawn by the examiner in view of the amendment filed on December 27, 1999. Since a new non-final rejection follows, the applicant's arguments will not be addressed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-10, 12, 22, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0109060.

The EP 0109060 reference discloses a process of cracking a hydrocarbon feed which comprises olefins having 4 to 12 carbon atoms into propylene and some ethylene. The feed is

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contacted with an alumino-silicate having a crystalline and zeolitic structure and having a $\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ molar ratio equal to or greater than 350. This is equivalent to silicon/alumimun atomic ratios of equal to or greater than 175. The process is conducted at a temperature of from 400°C to 600°C , at a substantially atmospheric pressure, and at a space velocity of from 5 to 200 h^{-1} . The behavior of the silicalites depends on the conversion pressure. If the pressure is atmospheric, the space velocity must be lower than 50 hr^{-1} . If the pressure is from 1.5 to 7.5 atmospheres, the space velocity must be above 50 hr^{-1} . The examples indicate selectivity of C_4 saturated compounds of less than 5 wt %. Therefore, at least 95% of the C_2 and C_3 compounds present in the product must be olefins. The data in the table also indicates that propylene yield is within the claimed range and indicate that olefin contents of the feed and product are within $\pm 15\%$ of each other. The reference discloses that the feed is selected from a C_4 cut and it comprises naphtha (aromatic compounds such as BTX). (See page 1, lines 20-35; page 3, lines 18-40; page 5, lines 13-19; pages 6-7; claims 1-3)

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 5, 6, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over EP 0109060.

The EP 0109060 reference discloses a process of cracking a hydrocarbon feed which comprises olefins having 4 to 12 carbon atoms into propylene and some ethylene. The feed is contacted with an alumino-silicate having a crystalline and zeolitic structure and having a $\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ molar ratio equal to or greater than 350. This is equivalent to silicon/aluminum atomic ratios of equal to or greater than 175. The process is conducted at a temperature of from 400°C to 600°C , at a substantially atmospheric pressure, and at a space velocity of from 5 to 200

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h^{-1} . The behavior of the silicalites depends on the conversion pressure. If the pressure is atmospheric, the space velocity must be lower than 50 hr^{-1} . If the pressure is from 1.5 to 7.5 atmospheres, the space velocity must be above 50 hr^{-1} . The examples indicate selectivity of C_4 saturated compounds of less than 5 wt %. Therefore, at least 95% of the C_2 and C_3 compounds present in the product must be olefins. The data in the table also indicates that propylene yield is within the claimed range and indicate that olefin contents of the feed and product are within ± 15 % of each other. The reference discloses that the feed is selected from a C_4 cut and it comprises naphtha (aromatic compounds such as BTX). (See page 1, lines 20-35; page 3, lines 18-40; page 5, lines 13-19; pages 6-7; claims 1-3)

Regarding claims 5 and 6, the reference does not disclose that the feedstock is selected from a C_4 or C_5 cut from a steam cracker. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the EP 0109060 process by having the feedstock from a source as claimed because the claimed feeds are chemically and physically similar to the feeds disclosed in EP 0109060 and therefore would be expected to behave similarly in the process of EP 019060 as the disclosed feeds.

Regarding claims 13 and 14, the reference does not specifically disclose the olefin partial pressures. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the EP 0109060 process by utilizing the claimed olefin

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partial pressure because the EP 0109060 reference discloses pressures that overlap those claimed and discloses that the pressure is a result effective variable.

Claims 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0109060 as applied to claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-14, 22, and 27 above, and further in view of Cosyns et al. (5,306,852).

The EP 0109060 reference does not specifically disclose that the feed contains dienes, and does not disclose the step of hydrogenation of dienes.

Cosyns discloses a hydrogenation process in which a diolefin (or diene) containing hydrocarbon stream produced by steam cracking or other cracking processes is hydrogenated. The dienes are converted into mono-olefins by contacting with a hydrogenation catalyst. (See abstract)

Regarding claims 16, 17 and 20, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the EP 0109060 process by utilizing the Cosyns hydrogenation process before the cracking process because the Cosyns process will convert dienes to mono-olefins. This in turn would increase the production of mono-olefins and decrease the amount of dienes to less than 0.1 wt% in the cracked feed.

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Regarding claims 18, 19 and 20, Cosyns does not specifically disclose the LHSV of the feedstock and the hydrogenation operating conditions. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the Cosyns process by utilizing the LHSV and the operating conditions as claimed because Cosyns utilizes a hydrogenation catalyst to convert dienes in a hydrocarbon stream, which is from the same sources as claimed, to mono-olefins. Therefore, it would be expected that the results would be similar or the same when operating the Cosyns process under the claimed conditions.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 010960 and Cosyns et al. (5,306,852) as applied to claims 20 and 22 above, and further in view of Gajda et al. (5,522,984).

EP 010960 reference does not specifically disclose the step of pretreating the catalyst by steam and de-aluminating so as to increase the silicon/aluminum ratio. However, Gajda discloses a de-aluminating process of a cracking catalyst by steaming the catalyst and then contacting the steamed catalyst with an aqueous solution. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the EP 010960 process by pre-treating the catalyst as taught by Gajda because the Gajda catalyst pretreating step will produce a catalyst having a desirable silicon/aluminum ratio. (See Gajda, col. 3, lines 13-49; col. 4, lines 43-49)

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Alternatively, claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 010960 and Cosyns et al. (5,306,852) as applied to claims 20 and 22 above, and further in view of Kuehl et al. (4,954,243).

EP 010960 reference does not specifically disclose the step of pretreating catalyst by steam and de-aluminating so as to increase the silicon/aluminum ratio. However, Kuehl discloses the dealumination of zeolites which are used in catalytic cracking to result in zeolites that can have silica: alumina mole ratios of 30,00 or greater. The dealumination can occur by calcination in the presence of water followed by treatment with a complexing agent. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the EP 010960 process by dealuminating the zeolite to achieve the desired silicon:aluminum atomic ratio as suggested by Kuehl because the zeolite will exhibit very low coke make thereby allowing very long times on stream between regenerations. (See Kuehl, col. 3, lines 44-65; col. 4, lines 15-28; col. 8, lines 65-68; col. 9, lines 11-17 and 55-68; col. 10, lines 1-5; col. 11, lines 27-68; col. 12, lines 1-7 and 48-58)

Conclusion

In the view of the foregoing, the claims have failed to patentably distinguish over the applied art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Tam Nguyen, whose telephone number is (703) 305-7715. The examiner

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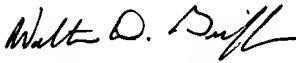
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can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:15 AM to 5:45 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marian Knode, can be reached on (703) 308-4311. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-3599.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

T. M. Nguyen
February 23, 2000


Walter D. Griffin
Primary Examiner